28: Sarytschew--60 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 136, 224

"At the entrance of the bay of Awatska, we passed a light-house, erected on a lofty rocky prominence, on the left of which was an insular mountain of stone, called Staritschkow, after the name of a bird that frequents it in great abundance. The staritschkow is a bird about the size of a pigeon, with a bluish bill, and small feathers, of a bristly kind; its head is of a purple colour, having a circle of white feathers in the middle, which are thinner and longer than the rest. Its neck is black above, with white spots underneath. Its body is white, the short large feathers of its wings blackish, and the rest blue; its sides and tail black; its feet red, and trebly indigited with a web between each, and its claws black. On the little islands of Kamtschatka they are found in vast numbers, and are caught by the Kamtschadales with great facility. Besides this bird, there are also sea-parrots, mews, and urilas, the latter of which paid us a visit of curiosity as before, and then disappeared."

28: Sarytschew--60-61 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 133

"The entrance of the bay [CMC: Avacha Bay] by the light-house, has 13 fathoms water, and a sandy bottom. The banks on both sides are peaked and stony, having occasionally windings, in and out. Not far beyond the light-house, stand three lofty isolated rocks in the form of pillars, close by each other; on which account they are denominated the Three Ribbons. Very near these pillars is a little creek called the Saline, from the salt-works which exist on its banks. On one side of the creek, lies a little stony island, called the Traitor's Island, from its having been the place of concealment for the ring-leaders of the Kamtschadale insurrection against the Russians. On the other side is a lofty rock, called the Grandmother's Rock.

The entrance into the bay extends two leagues beyond these, and terminates with the commencement of the bay itself, which is 26 leagues in extent, and loses itself in three creeks, running parallel with each other: one of which is called Tarjinskoi, the second Rakowoi, and the third forms the harbour of Petropaulowsk, which was the object of our destination. It lies more to the north of the entrance, in the middle of which is a sand-bank, where the depth of the water is scarcely 1 1/2 fathom. The creek itself is from six to fifteen fathoms deep, and affords a good anchorage every where in its muddy bottom. The shore and surrounding country are mountainous, except towards the north-west, where there are some plains and low-lands. From this side also, flow the rivers Awatska and Paratunka, into the creek.

Towards evening we came to anchor near the harbour of Petropaulowsk, which is above

the verst in circumference. On the [61] west side, it is sheltered by a mountainous narrow peninsula, and on the south side, by a small gut of land, consisting of pebbles, and called Koschka. Between that peninsula, and Koschka, one must run into the harbour. The breadth of this straight is 40, and the depth, from seven to nine fathoms. The bottom is muddy."

28: Sarytschew--61 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 133, 161, 361

"On the Koschka [CMC: a jutty of land at the entrance to Petropavlovsk harbor; see category 133, this source, pages 60-61] there are eight dwelling-houses, interspersed with several buloganen; or log-houses, and on the north shore of the haven are four, together with a wooden building for an hospital, and the store-houses built during the expedition of Commodore Behring, which are still in good condition. The number of the inhabitants is limited to eleven Kamtschadales, one ensign from the army, and 23 Kosaks. The country around the haven is mountainous, but the north and east sides have sufficient level ground for 300 houses."

28: Sarytschew--62 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 135, 136

"By some beds of rock in this peninsula [CMC: at the entrance to Petropavlovsk harbor], we discovered green jasper marl, on which were the representations of shrubs or trees; we also found, in the crevices of the rocks, some layers of amaranth, not very large, and remarkably thin.

For some time after our arrival, there was no fresh fish to be had. In the beginning of November, we began to catch wachnas in abundance, and occasionally herrings. The wachna, (Gadus æglesinus), is a sort of stock-fish, about half a yard in length, with a roundish body, and three dorsal fins. When taken out of the water, it is perfectly of a copper colour, but soon turns quite pale. Its flesh is white, but soft, and not pleasant to the taste. The roe is, however, of a fine texture, and has the best flavour. It is an inhabitant of the European Ocean, but most frequently found in Kamtschatka."

28: Sarytschew--63-64 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 231, 492, 493

"On the approach of winter, the inhabitants are busied with putting their sledges in order, and tying up their dogs, to fit them for drawing, as they are in fine weather allowed to run loose. Sledges and dogs are in general use here, both for travelling and conveyance. ...

The sledges here differ very considerably from those of Ochotsk, being shorter, smaller, lighter, and much higher. They will scarcely hold two, and are very unsteady on account of their monstrous height. In descending any hill, the utmost care and dexterity is requisite, to keep the feet and the oschtol in the proper direction; for the smallest oversight of this kind may cost a person his life, as has been the case with even experienced drivers, who have been dashed to pieces against the trees lying in the way.

The management of the dogs is no less difficult and dangerous here than at Ochotsk; for they are equally apt to become ungovernable on the scent of any animal. In order to stop them, they drive the oschtol between the front sledge of the conveyance as far into the snow as possible, and always keep the two fore dogs in a tight rein, that none may be able to run away. When the declivity of any mountain is unusually steep and dangerous, they bind birch-twigs round the bottom of the sledge, to impede its course. The cry of ko ko ko stops the dogs; aach aach drives them on; chna chna chna, turns them to the right; and uga uga uga, to the left. Hunters to not make use of these words, for fear of frightening their game, but strike gently with the oschtol on the right side of the sledge, when they should turn to the right, and bend them down to the snow to the left, when they

should go to the left. Besides the danger in this mode of travelling, it is attended with many inconveniences. You must never let your dogs go loose. If ever you are overturned, you must rather be dragged along in the snow than leave your hold, for it is a great disgrace to lose your [64] dogs, and be obliged to wade through the snow on foot; not to mention that the dogs very often entangle themselves in their harness, in which case, the driver must take off his gloves in the cold to put them to rights, and is often in danger of being soiled with their dung. The worst trick you can play a driver, is to cast a piece of jukol among his dogs, who fight for it until they are thrown into the utmost confusion. If he be in company with others, he is thus prevented from keeping up with them, and exposed to all the inconveniencies of going behind; the principal of which is, that the dung of the other dogs is continually freezing on his sledge, and requires him every moment to clear it away with his knife. When you get to a public-house, you are not free from your dogs. The instant they are unharnessed, they must be tied to a post. Nor can they be immediately fed, for they must wait until the sweat is dried off. A whole or half a jukol is then given them, but the master must stand by to see that every dog gets his part, and also to drive away the crows, which are not very shy in this country. They will collect in great quantities round the dogs if not thus guarded, and snap up all their allowance."

28: Sarytschew--65-66 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 361, 563

"The fortress of Bolcherezsk, situated on the banks of the Bolschaja, has a church and thirty habitations. Its inhabitants consist principally of Kosaks, with a few merchants and citizens. Before the advancement of the fortress Nishne-Kamtschatzsk to the rank of a town, the first magistrate of Kamtschatka made this his place of residence; but now a serjeant is commander of the fortress. The Kosaks here are much more opulent than those of Petropaulowsk, almost all of them having their cattle and a good domestic economy. Their gardens are stocked with excellent turnips and potatoes. For the introduction of the latter vegetable they are indebted to counsellor Reineke, the former commander of Kamtschatka.

All the inhabitants here are usually dressed like the Kamt-[66]schadales, in narkas and kamlegas. The former are the skins of reindeer, cut into shirts; and the latter are skins of any kind, stripped of their hair, and made quite pliant. On holidays, the women wear a sort of silk gown of an old Russian shape, which was fashionable 60 years ago. They have also a speckled silk handkerchief about their heads.

In the first days of the new year, the inhabitants assembled every evening for the purpose of dancing. The women understood Russian dances very well, and what was still more surprising, could dance in the Polish fashion, and very passably even à la Grecque. The music consisted of three fiddles, played by Kosaks."

28: Sarytschew--66 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 535, 825

"I did not see the Kamtschadale dance here [CMC: at Bolsheretsk], but among the Kosaks of Petropaulowsk, who give it the preference, it is so indecent, that every modest woman would blush to be a spectator, much more a partner in it. A woman makes the commencement by stepping forward into the middle of the Isba, and holding a cloth spread out before her in a transverse direction. She shifts her feet slowly, making a variety of motions with her hands, head, and body. Her head sinks alternately on one shoulder or the other, on her back or on her breast. She then at length advances to a man, and renews this gesticulation close before him, which implies as much as soliciting his hand to the dance. He accordingly takes hold of the cloth in the same manner, and rising from his seat, they both commence the distortion of all their limbs together. The woman turns every now and then away from the man, but returns to him instantly again, sinking gradually upon her knees, and then bending herself backward with a similar gesticulation; the man also in the mean time falling down and reclining himselv over her, the dance is concluded with the most obscene gestures. While it lasts, both dancers and spectators all sing to one song, consisting of the words an-kelle, an-kaget, incessantly repeated: but they have a variety of such monotonous ditties, adapted to the same species of dancing. In some of their dances, they imitate birds and beasts; the man for example representing the male, and the woman the female-bear; and sometimes there is a company of these imitators, who amuse themselves together, either in running like partridges, gabbling like geese, or in aping some other animal."

28: Sarytschew--66-67 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 222, 262, 609, 825

"On our journey we experienced the most friendly treatment from the Kamtschadales, who not only entertained us with the utmost cordiality, but made us liberal presents of partridges, fresh fish, frozen keta, jukol, berries, and roots, [67] which are collected in great quantities from the mouse-holes, and form one of their principal aliments.

In autumn, they go into the fields in search of these roots, and as soon as they find hollow ground, by stamping, they dig down, and lay open the store-rooms of these animals. They do not, however, empty them entirely, but leave the mice a third at least of their provision, probably with a view of not driving away such useful creatures. They terrify each other, indeed, with the saying, that the mouse which is deprived of all its sustenance, will hang itself in despair on the next tree; a tale which may perhaps have originated in the circumstance of a mouse having been entangled by accident in the branches of a tree, and having hung there till it died."

28: Sarytschew--67 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 157, 177, 181, 291, 342

"On comparing the present condition of the Kamtschadales, and their way of living, with Krascheninikow's description of them, we find them to have undergone a remarkable change. They have now almost entirely renounced their former superstitious customs, and submitted to baptism. Jurts, or subterraneous dwellings, are now vanished, and their place is every where supplied by Russian isbas. The female Kamtschadales have a dress for holidays very similar to those of the female Kosaks, for they wear stomachers and petticoats, and bind a handkerchief round their heads. The abundance of fish, and the facility with which they prosure a subsistence, now grown pleasant by habit, are probably the causes why they make no exertions in agriculture, or the breeding of cattle. It is much more remarkable, that their long and close intercourse with the Russians should not have given them a little more worldly wisdom; for they continue to this moment to barter their sables and foxes skins for the merest trifles. With this deficiency in cultivation, they retain, however, their good qualities, and are just as good-hearted, sincere, peaceable, obliging, and hospitable as before. Their prominent faults are uncleanliness and idleness. Thieving is very rare, and murder still more rare. Some travellers charge them with the vice of drunkenness, but I cannot confirm this with my testimony; whatever bad exceptions there may be, they cannot serve as a general rule."

28: Sarytschew--67-68 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 177, 276, 789

"Notwithstanding the Kamtschadales have renounced most of their former superstitions, they still retain a firm belief in the supernatural powers of the schamans. A Kosak once profited by this credulity to regain his stolen property in a very ingenious manner. While on a journey with several Kamtschadales, he had some of his tobacco stolen from him, and, after questioning every individual separately, he was unable to discover who was the thief. He accordingly took some sticks, and making them of equal lengths, gave each of them one, with the assurance, that the stick of the thief would infallibly grow longer by the [68] power of schamanary. This unpleasant intelligence had such an effect on the imagination of the thief, that he actually conceited that his stick did increase in length, and thought to relieve himself from this dilemma by breaking a piece off. The next morning, every Kamtschadale carrying back his stick, the thief was instantly discovered. He was now obliged to confess the theft, and make restoration. His apology was, that all his own tobacco being gone, he had no money to buy more, and could not dispense with this necessary. Tobacco was remarkably dear at that time in Kamtschatka, a single pound costing a hundred rubles; and yet the inhabitants of this place sacrificed every thing to the indulgence of their passion for this intoxicating herb. Its ordinary price on a fresh supply is only two rubles and a half.

Tobacco is one of the most lucrative branches of trade in these parts, and always finds a ready sale; for there is not a tribe or nation having any intercourse with the Russians, which does not smoke, chew, and take snuff. The Burats, Jakuts, Koraks,

28: Sarytschew--67-68 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal-2
116, 177, 276, 789

Jakugirens, and Tschukschens, like the strong Tscherkapian tobacco, and are not fond of that which grows in the country of Irkutsk. They smoke it with a mixture of half saw-dust; but the Kamtschadales and Aleutians only chew tobacco and take snuff."

28: Sarytschew--68-69 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 133

"On the 25th of February [CMC: 1790, while at Petropavlovsk], we observed an evident agitation of the earth, which is very frequent and strong, owing to its [69] proximity with the volcanic mountain of Awatska; but this was the first of the kind during our stay here. This mountain was likewise perfectly quiet, and emitted nothing but smoke; while the Klutschewish summit, on the other hand, sent forth, in January, flames, stones, lava, and a quantity of black sand, with which the whole circumjacent country was covered."

28: Sarytschew--69 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 133

"I sailed about for the purpose of surveying the bay of Awatska, and the two side bays. Rakowoi is three leagues long, and half a league broad; its depth is from 6 to 13 fathoms, and its bottom is muddy. The other, Targinskoi, situated on the north-west side of the Awatska bay, is five miles in length, and half a mile in breadth. Its north-east bank consists of a narrow mountainous promontory, which separates it from the Awatska bay. It has 13 fathom of water in the middle, which diminishes as you proceed downwards. Its bottom is likewise muddy.

The two rivers, Awatska and Paratunka, flow into the northern part of Awatskish bay, after running down the mountains through several low lands. From the mouth of these rivers upwards, there is a dry place half a mile broad; but elsewhere, the whole bay is tolerably deep, and would admit of large vessels to lie at anchor in 14 fathoms water. The bottom in the deepest places is muddy, but in the shallower parts is sandy."

28: Sarytschew--70 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 177, 436 Russia
636.43

"Copper money is scarcely known in Kamtschatka, silver coin only being in use; but small notes or assignations are beginning to get introduced."